

September 11, 2007

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dodd:

I am writing on behalf of the 368,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to thank you for your leadership in offering the "Support for Injured Servicemembers Act" as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. MOAA supports your effort to allow the families of our wound military personnel to take up to six months of unpaid leave, expanding the benefits provided under the Family and Medical Leave Act, which currently allows 12 weeks of leave.

Often the families are the caregivers to our wounded servicemembers. While modern medicine has helped us bring home more servicemembers from the battlefields, unfortunately their injuries are much more complex and require longer rehabilitation time than from wars past. Many family members are forced to quite or take extended leave from their jobs to care for their loved one with little or no assurance that they will have a job to return to sometime in the future.

MOAA believes that families need more time to take care of servicemembers just as the wounded need more time to heal. Your bipartisan amendment is critical and timely for our all volunteer force. Helping families heal and stay intact is one of the most important things we can do to show our appreciation as a grateful nation—it's the right thing to do and will help the long-term sustainment of our defense force.

Again, thank you for your leadership. MOAA looks forward to working with you to enact this important provision.

Sincerely, *I call the best!*

